

July 29, 2020

COVID-19 Trinity Community Contract

Dear Trinity Students and Families,

The COVID-19 global pandemic makes this an unprecedented time to be on a college campus. In order for us to be together, in-person on our Hartford campus, we must commit to ways of living, learning, and working that actively promote the health and safety of everyone: students, faculty, staff, and members of the greater community.

This is a commitment like no other: Each of us must accept responsibility to actively promote our own good health and actively contribute to the good health of all others. There is little room for error in the face of this unforgiving virus. These are high stakes.

The Trinity Community Contract applies to all students who participate in in-person instruction on our campus in 2020-2021. Residential students, commuters, and those who reside in off-campus housing must commit and adhere to these policies and procedures.

Because of the potentially severe public health effects of noncompliance, those who do not comply with these expectations will be subject to immediate removal from campus. Conduct that endangers others may result in significant disciplinary sanctions. The severity of sanction will be commensurate with the level of endangering behavior demonstrated (see, e.g., Student Handbook, page 43 – prohibiting behavior or any activity that endangers the health and safety of oneself or of others). Sanctions may include the following: parental notification, written warning, admonition, housing reassignment, loss of specified campus privileges, loss of privilege to live on campus, loss of privilege to attend in-person classes, censure, suspension, or even expulsion.

To participate in in-person instruction, you must fully acknowledge and agree to the following:

Students should quarantine in residence for 14 days before traveling to campus. Students should be tested for COVID-19 prior to arrival to campus and as described in the July 30 letter. Bring proof of negative test result with you to check-in process. Students who have tested positive, are symptomatic, and/or have had a high-risk exposure (close contact with an infected person or prolonged contact with a crowd without physical distancing) within the 14-day period must delay their travel to campus and contact the Dean of Students Office or Health Center for instructions. While traveling to campus, students should minimize potential exposures by following the CDC's [guidance for travelers](#).

Upon arrival to campus

As described in the July 30th letter, you must consent to and comply with Trinity's COVID-19 testing protocol, including arriving promptly for all scheduled appointments. You must monitor your health and disclose symptoms to the Health Center at the start of every day before leaving

your private residence via the reporting system provided by Trinity. These protocols also apply to commuting students. **More updated information on the testing protocols will be sent to you by August 10th.**

Each student will be given two face coverings during the check-in process. These face coverings are washable.

You may not travel (leave campus or leave your off-campus housing) for non-essential reasons at any time. This requires careful planning on your part. Essential travel is limited to: family emergencies, pharmacy, hospital/doctor, legal appointments, necessary groceries, etc.

You may not have guests in residential learning communities (residence halls) at any time. Should a parent or guardian need to come to campus to deliver an essential item (e.g. medication) or to pick you up, you understand that your parent or guardian must first contact Campus Safety.

You must obtain on your own and bring with you to campus a “home health kit” containing the following items: Disinfecting wipes (e.g., Lysol or Clorox), face coverings/masks (as directed by CDC), small supply of disposable gloves, hand sanitizer (up to one liter; at least 60% alcohol), personal use thermometer, supply of acetaminophen, supply of ibuprofen, supply of cough drops, tissues, and standard first aid items. This applies to students who live both on and off campus. Should you need financial assistance in order to obtain these items, please submit a request to: [Student Emergency and Equity Fund](#)

After you arrive to campus

As soon as you first experience symptoms of or are diagnosed with COVID-19, you agree to follow the notification protocol and disclose all recent contacts to the Health Center for the purpose of contact tracing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, contact tracing is used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In general, contact tracing involves identifying people who have an infectious disease (cases) and their contacts (people who may have been exposed) and working with them to interrupt disease transmission. For COVID-19, this includes asking cases to isolate and contacts to quarantine at home voluntarily.

If you have roommates, live in a suite, townhouse, or off campus residence, you agree to be treated like a “family unit” as defined by CT COVID-19 protocols. <https://reopen.ct.gov/documents/Reopening-Higher-Education--for-posting.pdf>

If you or someone else is diagnosed with COVID-19, all other members of the “family unit” must self-quarantine for 14 days while monitoring symptoms. This will be supervised remotely by the Health Center.

You will be required to obtain and submit documentation of the influenza vaccination when it becomes available. You may obtain one from the healthcare provider of your choosing. These vaccines will also be administered by the Health Center. According to CT state law, you can be exempted from receiving a vaccine for medical conditions which are contraindicated or for religious reasons. Please contact the Health Center for guidance.

You must strictly adhere to the College's social distancing guidelines and restrictions. These limitations are subject to change and students will be required to abide by those changes.

For non-academic gatherings, indoor group size is limited to 10 people with social distancing and face coverings. Outdoor gatherings are limited to 25 people with social distancing and face coverings. Gatherings that fail to adhere to these guidelines will be immediately dispersed and students/organizations may face further consequences. Groups should meet virtually whenever possible. In-person gatherings must be approved by the appropriate department and may need to be supervised.

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/Latest-Guidance>

<https://www.trincoll.edu/reopening/>

Congregating in communal areas of campus in large groups is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, residence hall lounges, social spaces, Greek-letter organizations, cultural houses, kitchens, lobbies, hallways, dining tables, etc. All students who are congregating in limited groups in communal space must wear a CDC-compliant face covering.

Due to the need for physical distance between individuals and the prohibition of large social gatherings, there will be no social registration of parties for the duration of the fall 2020 term. Violations of this policy will be considered a severe violation and lead to serious outcomes for the sponsoring organization (if applicable) and individual students, including censure, suspension, and expulsion.

Students must obey all occupancy restrictions as posted in each building. You must obey all classroom guidelines and directives, including cleaning your desk area/work space with the approved cleaning products provided.

Students with private bathrooms will be given a bathroom cleaning kit upon arrival. You are responsible for cleaning it regularly.

The potential continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting risks and implications for on-campus residential education, are not fully foreseeable. As a result, students are required to comply with any public health directives issued by college officials. This includes directives related to quarantining, isolating, cleaning protocols, and following all policies listed in this document and any new policies issued in the interest of public health. You will abide by any guidance/regulation placed on the college by the local, state, or federal government related to public health.

You must adhere to the following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.

- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms (either presymptomatic or asymptomatic).

Wash your hands often

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

Avoid close contact with people who are sick

Maintain a 6 foot (2 meters) distance between yourself and other people at all times when possible.

Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.

Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Meet people outside when you can

The virus doesn't appear to spread as readily outdoors. So if you can meet out of doors, you should.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others

Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public (anytime you leave your room, go to class, go to the bathroom, etc.).

The cloth face covering is meant to protect you from others who are infected as well as other people from you in case you are infected.

You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.

Continue to keep about 6 feet (2 meters) between yourself and others. This also pertains to the classroom, labs, and other places of instruction. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes

If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.

Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect

Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

If surfaces are dirty, clean them. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Then, use a household disinfectant. Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>

Pick up after yourself

If you fail to place items in trash cans, or dispose of them properly, you are increasing the risk that someone else will touch the item and become infected.

Emergency departure

You must complete this emergency departure form and keep it up-to-date:

<https://forms.trincoll.edu/emergency-preparedness/emergency-departure-plans/>

Pledge

I understand that even with all the protections implemented by Trinity College and my compliance with those protections, it is possible that I may be exposed to and contract COVID-19. Infection can result in severe illness or even death. I further understand that I can reduce that risk by choosing to participate in remote learning, rather than in-person instruction, and reside at home or off-campus.

By signing this, you pledge your commitment to the above and promise you have shared this information with your family:

Student signature _____ Date _____